November 21, 1978

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MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENCE

The Department of Defense, in response to requests from the Department of State, is continuing its humanitarian support for operations in Guyana in the aftermath of the tragedy at Jonestown settlement. Army and Air Force support personnel are being sent to Guyana to assist Guyanese officials in the disposition of remains and treatment of survivors of American citizens at Jonestown.

The U.S. assistance consists of approximately 250 personnel and equipment from Fort Benning, Georgia; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Eglin Air Force Base, Florida; and elements from the U.S. Southern Command, Quarry Heights, Canal Zone. Included are Army UH-1 MEDEVAC and OH-58 observation helicopters, a medical clearing platoon, graves registration personnel, and associated ground support forces for maintenance, communications and general support. The command and control element is being provided by Southern Command. The Air Force is providing three HH-53 long-range rescue helicopters from Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, and aircraft of the Military Airlift Command (MAC) which will transport personnel and equipment to Guyana. Support operations are expected to last five to seven days.

As announced on November 20, the Department of Defense is also responding to requests to provide rescue equipment support to the Government of Guyana. This equipment includes two helicopters, radios, sleeping bags, C-rations, generators and related items. The equipment is being dispatched from the Canal Zone in Military Airlift Command (MAC) aircraft.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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